



Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
State Fire Marshal

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Rash of US Home Fires Fatal to Children Prompts Nevada DPS Fire Marshal to Promote Use of Residential Smoke Alarms

Carson City, NV~The Department of Public Safety's Fire Marshal Division reminds Nevadans to ensure working smoke detectors are installed in their homes. In the US from July 3rd –July 25th 2006, nearly 25 children died in 14 residential fires. Of the 25 fatalities, 12 of these children died in homes with no working smoke alarms.

Place a smoke alarm on every level of your home and outside bedrooms. If you keep your bedroom doors closed, place a smoke alarm in each bedroom. Check the batteries once a month *and* when you return from vacation--*Make sure the alarm still works.*

In Nevada in 2005, over 53% of all reported structure fires were residential with less than 1/2 of all structures with reported fires had working detectors. In 2005, Nevada had at eight fire-related fatalities.

"There is no single more important item in any household than a working smoke alarm," says DPS Fire Marshal Chad Hastings. Having a working smoke alarm in the home reduces your chances of dying in a fire by nearly half. Research shows that nearly one third of residential fires and two-fifths of residential fatalities occur in homes with no smoke alarms. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, 74% of fatal fires occur in structures; of these fatalities, 94% were in people's homes. Residential-structure fires also account for over 60 percent of fire injuries. Studies by the Center for Disease Control prove that \$1 spent on smoke alarms can save \$69 in fire-related costs. Prevention of suffering and loss is invaluable.

Get more information on smoke alarms and Nevada fire-safety programs from the Nevada DPS, Fire Marshal Division (775-684-7504 or mpeltier@dps.state.nv.us) and the Fire Prevention Association of Nevada (www.fpaneveda.org). Life-saving information is also available through the U.S. Fire Administration (www.usfa.dhs.gov) and your local fire department.

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